



Terry O'Quinn

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Terrance Quinn (born July 15, 1952), known professionally as **Terry O'Quinn**, is an American actor. He won a [Primetime Emmy Award](#) for his performance as [John Locke](#) on the TV series [Lost](#) (2004–2010). In film, he also played the title role in [The Stepfather](#) (1987) and [Howard Hughes](#) in [The Rocketeer](#) (1991) with roles in other films such as [Heaven's Gate](#) (1980), [Silver Bullet](#) (1985), [Young Guns](#) (1988), [Blind Fury](#) (1989), [Tombstone](#) (1993) and [Primal Fear](#) (1996).

Other prominent television roles include [Peter Watts](#) in [Millennium](#) (1996–1999), FBI Asst. Director Kendall in [Alias](#) (2002–2004), Commander Joe White in [Hawaii Five-0](#) (2011–2018), and Tom Tavner in [Patriot](#) (2015–2018).

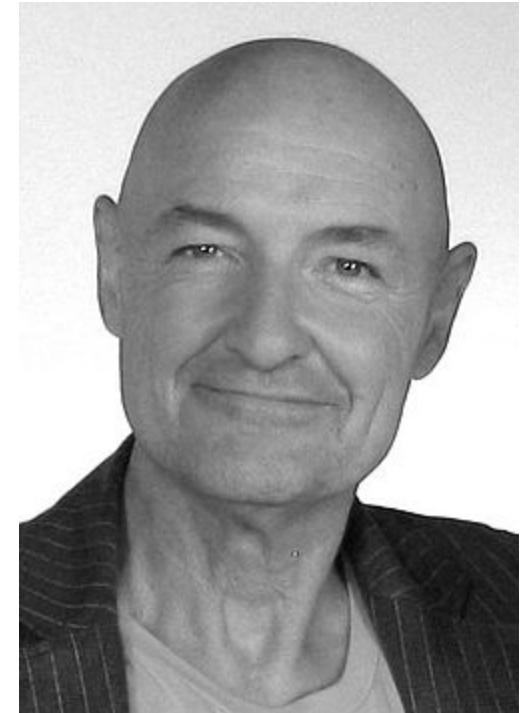
Early life [edit]

O'Quinn was born at War Memorial Hospital in [Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan](#), one of 11 siblings, and grew up in nearby [Newberry, Michigan](#). He is of [Irish](#) descent and was raised Catholic.^{[1][2]} He attended [Central Michigan University](#) in [Mount Pleasant, Michigan](#), and the [University of Iowa](#) in [Iowa City](#). He changed his surname from Quinn to O'Quinn as another registered actor already had the name Terrance Quinn.^[3]

In the 1970s, O'Quinn went to Baltimore to act in the [Center Stage](#) production of [Tartuffe](#). He remained at Center Stage for several years and often appeared with the late Tana Hicken, most notably as Benedick to her Beatrice in [Much Ado About Nothing](#). His first movie role was in [Heaven's Gate](#).

Career [edit]

O'Quinn began acting in the 1970s during his time at [Central Michigan University](#). He not only was an actor but also playwright/director. He wrote and directed the musical *Orchestra*. This musical featured five main



O'Quinn in 2008

Born	Terrance Quinn July 15, 1952 (age 73) Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan , U.S.
Occupation	Actor
Years active	1975–present
Spouse	Lori O'Quinn (m. 1979; div. 2010)
Children	2

characters: The Man (played by [Jeff Daniels](#)), The Boy (Harold Downs), The Woman (Ann O'Donnell), The Girl (Debbie Penwarden), and The Drunk (James Hilliker), plus a female and a male chorus. He was roommates at CMU with actor [Brad Slaight](#).^[4]

Starting in 1980, O'Quinn has appeared in various feature films such as *Silver Bullet*, *Tombstone*, *Heaven's Gate*, *Young Guns*, *Ghosts of Mississippi*, with [Rutger Hauer](#) in *Blind Fury*, and as Howard Hughes in *The Rocketeer*.

O'Quinn also appeared in the Canadian horror movie, *Pin* (1988) alongside British-born Canadian actor, [David Hewlett](#).

His early [television](#) roles include guest appearances on *Tales of the Unexpected* (episode "In the Bag"), *Miami Vice* (episode "Give a Little, Take a Little"), *Moonlighting*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (episode "The Pegasus"), *The Twilight Zone* (1985 revival; episode "Chameleon"), *Homicide: Life on the Street* (episode "Hate Crimes"), a recurring role on *Earth 2*, another recurring role as Captain (later Rear Admiral) [Thomas Boone](#) on *JAG*, as well as Colonel Will Ryan in episode 15 of season 1 on the *JAG* spin-off series *NCIS* (episode "Enigma").

Around 1995, O'Quinn made guest appearances in *The X-Files* and *Harsh Realm*, produced by Chris Carter, who also cast him in the film *The X-Files: Fight the Future* and then once again in the final season. In 1996, O'Quinn started acting as Peter Watts in the television series *Millennium*, also produced by [Chris Carter](#). O'Quinn held this role for all three seasons of the series. O'Quinn holds the distinction of having played four different characters within the extended *X-Files/Millennium* continuum (the two shows being classed together since both [Lance Henriksen](#)'s character of [Frank Black](#) and [Charles Nelson Reilly](#)'s character of [Jose Chung](#) have appeared in both shows).^{[5][6]}

***The Stepfather* films** [edit]

Further information: [The Stepfather \(1987 film\)](#) and [Stepfather II](#)

O'Quinn made his breakthrough by starring as the title character in *The Stepfather*, a deranged serial killer going by the name "Jerry Blake" (his character's real name and identity are never revealed), who is obsessed with having an ideal family. When a widowed mother and daughter do not comply with his expectations, he spirals into a spell of madness and attempts to murder them. O'Quinn was praised by critics, including [Roger Ebert](#) in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, who commented, "*The Stepfather* has one wonderful element: Terry O'Quinn's performance."^[7] Ebert wrote, "He is a journeyman actor from TV and many movies, usually in supporting roles and you may or may not recognize him. What's clear at once is that he is a strong actor and given this leading role he brings all kinds of creepy dimensions to it. He has the thankless assignment of showing us a completely hateful, repellent character – and he approaches the task as an exercise in cloying middle-class good manners."^[7] O'Quinn was nominated for both a [Saturn Award](#) and an [Independent Spirit Award](#) for his performance. A sequel, *Stepfather II*, was released two years later, in which his character escapes from an insane asylum. It grossed almost a million dollars less at the box office.^{[8][9]} Not impressed with the second movie, O'Quinn declined to appear in its third installment, in which the stepfather character was portrayed by [Robert Wightman](#).

O'Quinn was approached by the director of the 2009 reboot of *The Stepfather*, [Nelson McCormick](#), to make a cameo appearance in the film but according to the producers O'Quinn turned down the offer.^{[10][11]}

Lost [edit]

Further information: [John Locke \(Lost\)](#) and [Lost \(TV series\)](#)

After a string of recurring appearances on *Alias* (2002–2003), as the FBI Director [Kendall](#), O'Quinn became a favorite of television producer [J. J. Abrams](#). Following a seven-episode guest run on *The West Wing* in 2003–2004, O'Quinn received a call from Abrams indicating that the producer wanted to cast him in his new television drama *Lost* without any audition. In 2005, O'Quinn received an Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama for his work as John Locke on the series *Lost*. O'Quinn admitted on the [TV Guide Channel](#) that he did not have much faith in *Lost* at first, calling it "[The Mysterious Gilligan's Island of Dr. Moreau](#)".^[12] The show, however, became one of the most popular on television, and on September 16, 2007, he won an [Emmy Award](#) for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for his role, and was nominated again for an Emmy for the role in 2010, which he did not win. In a [TV.com](#) interview O'Quinn commented that the reason he felt comfortable playing this character is because he's a bit like him.^[13]

2010–present [edit]

O'Quinn has made a number of television appearances since *Lost*. From 2012 to 2013, O'Quinn starred in the short-lived series [666 Park Avenue](#) as Gavin Doran. In 2012, he appeared in the second season of *Falling Skies*.^[14] Additionally, O'Quinn starred for two seasons in Amazon Studios' *Patriot*.

In 2016, it was announced that O'Quinn would be joining the second season of *Secret and Lies*.^[15] In 2019, O'Quinn starred in the only season of *Perpetual Grace, LTD* on Epix.

In February 2021, it was announced that O'Quinn was cast as Martin Queller in the [Netflix](#) thriller series *Pieces of Her*, which is adapted from the [Karin Slaughter](#) novel of the same name.^[16]

In October 2023, during New York Comic Con, it was announced that he would play the antagonist Major General Beale in *The Walking Dead: The Ones Who Live*, created by [Scott M. Gimple](#).

Terry joined the [Cameo platform](#) shortly after its launch in 2017. He has since been creating videos for fans and donating all of the proceeds to the [Virginia Beach SPCA](#). Terry has raised thousands of dollars on Cameo, and continues to create videos weekly.^[17]

Filmography [edit]

Film [edit]

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1980	Heaven's Gate	Capt. Minardi	
1983	All the Right Moves	Freeman Smith	

	<i>Without a Trace</i>	Parent	
1984	<i>Places in the Heart</i>	Buddy Kelsey	
	<i>Mrs. Soffel</i>	Detective Buck McGovern	
1985	<i>Silver Bullet</i>	Sheriff Joe Haller	
	<i>Mischief</i>	Claude Harbrough	
1986	<i>SpaceCamp</i>	Launch Director	
1987	<i>The Stepfather</i>	Jerry Blake / Henry Morrison / Bill Hodgkins / <i>The Stepfather</i>	Nominated— Independent Spirit Award for Best Male Lead
			Nominated— National Society of Film Critics Award for Best Actor
	<i>Black Widow</i>	Bruce	Nominated— Saturn Award for Best Actor
1988	<i>Young Guns</i>	Alex McSween	
	<i>Pin</i>	Dr. Linden	
1989	<i>Blind Fury</i>	Frank Deveraux	
	<i>Stepfather II</i>	Jerry Blake / Dr. Gene Clifford / <i>The Stepfather</i>	
	<i>The Forgotten One</i>	Bob Anderson	
1990	<i>Blood Oath</i>	Major Beckett	
1991	<i>The Rocketeer</i>	Howard Hughes	
	<i>Company Business</i>	Colonel Pierce Grissom	
1992	<i>The Cutting Edge</i>	Jack Moseley	
	<i>My Samurai</i>	James McCrea	
1993	<i>Tombstone</i>	Mayor John Clum	
	<i>Amityville: A New Generation</i>	Detective Clark	Direct-to-video
1995	<i>Shadow Warriors</i>	Dr. Connors	
1996	<i>Ghosts of Mississippi</i>	Judge Hilburn	
1997	<i>Shadow Conspiracy</i>	Frank Ridell	
1998	<i>The X-Files</i>	Darius Michaud	
2000	<i>Rated X</i>	J.R. Mitchell	

2001	American Outlaws	Rollin H. Parker	
2002	Hometown Legend	Buster Shuler	
2003	Old School	Goldberg	Uncredited
2016	New Life	Dr. Sumrall	
2024	Unsung Hero	Grandpa James	

Television [\[edit\]](#)

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1980	F.D.R.: The Last Year	James Roosevelt	Television
1981	The Doctors	Dr. Jerry Dancy	Soap opera
1982	Tales of the Unexpected	Cop	Episode: "In the Bag"
1983	Jacobo Timerman: Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number	Colonel Thomas Rhodes	Television film
	ABC Afterschool Special	Mr. Jacobs	Episode: "The Hand Me Down Kid"
1984	Miami Vice	Richard Cain	Episode: "Give a Little, Take a Little"
1985	The Twilight Zone	Dr. Curt Lockridge	Episode: "Chameleon"
	Right to Kill?	Jim Barrett	Television film
	An Early Frost	Dr. Redding	Television film
	Remington Steele	Chuck McBride	Episode: "Coffee, Tea or Steele"
1986	Between Two Women	Dr. Wallace	Television film
	Women of Valor	Major Tom Patterson	Television film
1987	Moonlighting	Bryant Wilbourne	Episode: "Take a Left At the Altar"
	At Mother's Request	Jeol Campbell	2 episodes
	When the Time Comes	Wes Travis	Television film
1988	Stranger on My Land	Connie Priest	Television film
	A Year in the Life	Keith	Episode: "Fathers and Other Strangers"
1989	Guts and Glory: The Rise and Fall of Oliver North	Aaron Sykes	2 episodes
	Roe vs. Wade	Jay Floyd	Television film
1990	Jake and the Fatman	Vincent Novak	Episode: "You're Driving Me Crazy"

	<i>Perry Mason: The Case of the Desperate Deception</i>	Curt Mitchell	Television film
	<i>Kaleidoscope</i>	Henry	Television film
1991	<i>Son of the Morning Star</i>	General Alfred Terry	2 episodes
	<i>The Last to Go</i>	Daniel	Television film
	<i>Shoot First: A Cop's Vengeance</i>	Sergeant Nicholas	Television film
1992	<i>Deliver Them from Evil: The Taking of Alta View</i>	Sergeant Don Bell	Television film
	<i>Trial: The Price of Passion</i>	Bob Altschuler	Television film
	<i>L.A. Law</i>	Nick Moats	Episode: "Beauty and the Breast"
	<i>Sexual Advances</i>	Cliff Ripley	Television film
	<i>Wild Card</i>	Barlow	Television film
	<i>The Good Fight</i>	Henry Cragin	Television film
1993	<i>Born Too Soon</i>	Dr. Friedman	Television film
	<i>Visions of Murder</i>	Admiral Truman Hager	Television film
1994	<i>A Friend to Die For</i>	Principal Ed Saxe	Television film
	<i>MacShayne: Winner Takes All</i>	Danny Legget	Television film
	<i>Star Trek: The Next Generation</i>	Admiral Erik Pressman	Episode: "The Pegasus"
	<i>Heart of a Child</i>	Gordon Holc	Television film
	<i>Don't Talk to Strangers</i>	Bonner	Television film
	<i>Justice in a Small Town</i>	Harris Wiley	Television film
	<i>Tales from the Crypt</i>	Inspector Martin Zeller	Episode: "The Bribe"
	<i>Matlock</i>	Malcolm Engle	Episode: "The Dare"
1994–1995	<i>Earth 2</i>	Reilly	6 episodes
1995	<i>The X-Files</i>	Lt. Brian Tillman	Episode: "Aubrey"
	<i>Ray Alexander: A Menu for Murder</i>	Frank Darnell	Television film
	<i>The Client</i>	Bert Halliwell	Episode: "Pilot"

	<i>Homicide: Life on the Street</i>	Bailey Lafeld	Episode: "Hate Crimes"
1995–2002	<i>JAG</i>	Capt./RAdm. Thomas Boone	10 episodes
1996	<i>Diagnosis: Murder</i>	Dr. Ronald Trent	Episode: "The Murder Trade"
1996–1999	<i>Millennium</i>	Peter Watts	41 episodes
1997	<i>My Stepson, My Lover</i>	Richard Cory	Television film
	<i>On the Edge of Innocence</i>	David Walker	Television film
	<i>Breast Men</i>	Hersch Lawyer	Television film
1999	<i>Murder in a Small Town</i>	Sidney Lassiter	Television film
1999–2000	<i>Harsh Realm</i>	General Omar Santiago	9 episodes
2001	<i>Roswell</i>	Carl	Episode: "Michael, the Guys, and the Great Snapple Caper"
	<i>Semper Fi</i>	Cliff's Father	Pilot
	<i>WW3</i>	Eric Farrell	Television film
2002	<i>The X-Files</i>	Shadow Man	Episode: "Trust No 1"
	<i>The Locket</i>	Casey Keddington	Television film
	<i>First Monday</i>	Sheriff Carl Richards	Episode: "Strip Search"
2002–2004	<i>Alias</i>	FBI Asst. Director Kendall	18 episodes
2003	<i>Phenomenon II</i>	Military Officer Jack Hatch	Television film
2003–2004	<i>The West Wing</i>	General Nicholas Alexander	7 episodes
2004	<i>NCIS</i>	Col. Will Ryan	Episode: "Enigma"
	<i>Law & Order: Criminal Intent</i>	Gordon Buchanan	Episode: "Mis-Labeled"
2004–2010	<i>Lost</i>	John Locke/The Man in Black	101 episodes Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series Saturn Award for Best Supporting Actor on Television Screen Actors Guild Award for

			<p>Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series</p> <p>Nominated—Golden Nymph Award for Outstanding Actor – Drama Series (2007, 2009–11)</p> <p>Nominated—Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series (2005, 2010)</p> <p>Nominated—Saturn Award for Best Supporting Actor on Television (2006, 2008, 2011)</p> <p>Nominated—Teen Choice Award for Choice TV: Villain</p>
2007	Masters of Science Fiction	Major Albert Skynner	Episode: "The Awakening"
2011	Taken from Me: The Tiffany Rubin Story	Mark Miller	Television film
	Hallelujah	Del Roman	Pilot
2011–2018	Hawaii Five-0	Commander Joe White	16 episodes
2012	Ring of Fire	Oliver Booth	2 episodes
2012–2013	Falling Skies	Arthur Manchester	3 episodes Nominated— Saturn Award for Best Guest Starring Role on Television
2012	666 Park Avenue	Gavin Doran	13 episodes
2014	Gang Related	Sam Chapel	12 episodes
	Phineas and Ferb	Professor Mystery (voice)	Episode: "Lost in Danville"
2015	The Adversaries	Charlie	Pilot
	Full Circle	Jimmy Parerra	6 episodes
2015–2018	Patriot	Tom Tavner	18 episodes
2016	Secrets and Lies	John Warner	7 episodes
2017	The Blacklist	Howard Hargrave	Episode: "Isabella Stone (No. 34)"; uncredited
	The Blacklist: Redemption	Howard Hargrave	7 episodes

	<i>Mysteries of the Missing</i> ^[18]	Himself (host)	8 episodes
2018	<i>Castle Rock</i> ^[19]	Dale Lacy	4 episodes
2019	<i>Perpetual Grace, LTD</i>	Texas Ranger Wesley Walker	10 episodes
	<i>Emergence</i>	Richard Kindred	5 episodes
2020– 2022	<i>FBI: Most Wanted</i>	Byron LaCroix	9 episodes
2021– 2025	<i>Resident Alien</i>	Peter Bach	13 episodes
2021	<i>Ultra City Smiths</i>	Captain Krieger (voice)	6 episodes
	<i>Christmas Sail</i>	Dennis	Television film
2022	<i>Pieces of Her</i>	Martin Queller	6 episodes
2024	<i>The Walking Dead: The Ones Who Live</i>	Johnathan Beale	3 episodes

References [edit]

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External links [edit]

- Terry O'Quinn at [IMDb](#)
- Terry O'Quinn at the [TCM Movie Database](#) 

Awards for Terry O'Quinn

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